



The Seattle City Attorney's *Liaison Links*

Quarterly Connection to the People
and Programs of your
Precinct Liaison Offices

North - East - West - South/Southwest

Also in this issue:

- * The Spot
- * Block Watch
- * Changes
- * The Fourth Liaison
- * Atlanta Conference

Please visit the Precinct Liaison web site:
www.cityofseattle.net/law/precinct_liaisons

Winter 2005

SOUTH PRECINCT

Catching Bad Guys

by Mark Solomon
Crime Prevention Coordinator

During the past few months several southeast neighborhoods have experienced a series of burglaries, with one neighborhood reporting more than 20 burglaries in a two month span. Another neighborhood reported 41 burglaries, and in both areas the majority of incidents were the result of a few culprits' work. The good news is that numerous arrests were made and the individuals were charged with multiple counts of burglary. The bad news is that there were so many burglaries in the first place.

The Seattle Police Department made the arrests based on a number of factors: increased presence of undercover and

plain cars officers, increased patrol awareness of the problem, and stellar coordination between Crime Prevention, Crime Analysis, Burglary and Patrol units. The key factor in the arrests was information; information obtained by residents.

Physical descriptions were provided, along with the days, dates and times when the burglaries and attempted burglaries occurred. Details about the stolen items helped investigators determine if the individuals were on foot or had a vehicle (large items or lots of things taken, vehicle; small items or only a few things taken, the thief is probably on foot.)

Descriptions of suspicious vehicles were helpful, and witnesses identified possible suspects.

Whenever you see something suspicious, call 911 and report it. Remember, it's *your*

neighborhood and if something in *your* neighborhood doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Pay attention to instincts. Call 911 and give the most accurate, detailed information you can. Let the operator control the conversation, as they know what information they need to pass to the officers. Don't wait for someone else to call, and don't think your suspicion is not a big enough deal to warrant calling 911. If in doubt, call and tell the operator "this is not an emergency, but I'd like to report....." The key is to report. If you don't call, the Seattle Police Department won't know.

QUOTABLE QUOTE:

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without ultimately helping himself."

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Continued next column

Continued next column

NORTH PRECINCT GAS WORKS PARK IS FREE OF GRAFFITI

By Ed McKenna

Most people who visit Seattle's Gas Works Park do so for the beautiful view of the city without taking the time to marvel at the unusual metal structures that abound in the park; few realize the historical importance of these odd structures.

At one point there were more than 1,400 industrial plants throughout the United States producing a gas product from coal and oil. This gas helped fuel America's industrial revolution. Seattle's Gas Works Park is the last remaining gas-producing plant in the United States. In 1999, Gas Works Park was designated a historic landmark. Contained within the Landmark Nomination Application is a record of the park's history and a statement of significance. According to the application, "These structures have been doubly served by Gas Works Park, for not only have they been preserved, but they have been integrated into an innovative, ground-breaking park design ... though obsolete, these towers, machines and buildings are a monument to humanity's inventiveness and offer a visual statement of pioneering technology." Gas Works Park is not just unique to Seattle, but the world as well. Here's how Landscape Australia described Gas Works Park: "The black shapes of the towers on their grassy point leap out with startling clarity against the bright

collage of the shoreline, silhouettes that might be the pictogram for the works of industrial man."

Of course, along with the industrial revolution came pollution, of which Gas Works Park added its share. Then came the lawyers, lawsuits and ultimately, a 50-page consent decree, regulating what can and cannot be done at Gas Works Park (including a prohibition from eating, drinking or smoking the dirt).

The high visibility of the park, the difficulty and danger of scaling the towers and the difficulty of removal have made Gas Works all the more attractive to graffiti taggers.

After receiving community complaints regarding the unsightliness of the park, the community liaison attorney contacted Seattle Parks Department which was under the impression they were prohibited from disturbing the towers pursuant to: the consent decree; maintenance plan; the landmarks preservation ordinance; interior department standards for rehabilitation; parks department safety rules; and consultant contracts. In addition, the parks department staff have spent hundreds of hours each year cleaning graffiti from areas of the park and there were budget constraints to consider.

After sorting through the legalities, the parks department agreed to clean off the towers' unsightly graffiti. They also agreed to place the towers on a maintenance program to ensure they remain

graffiti free in the future.

Since undertaking the graffiti removal the parks department has received dozens of "thank you" comments from community members and park regulars.

If you haven't visited Gas Works Park lately, please do so. Unsightly graffiti will no longer get in the way of your enjoyment of this historic park against the beautiful backdrop of our city.

A big thank you to Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds and his management team at Seattle Parks & Recreation for their willingness to tackle this huge project and go the extra mile.

EAST PRECINCT

Collaborative Success: The Community, Schools, City and Businesses Working Together
By Ed McKenna

The popular eatery La Louisiana applied for a liquor license. The mere thought of alcohol service on Cherry Street evokes concerns of lawlessness for some in an area where residents have worked hard to restore order. However, community members also want to encourage economic growth of small businesses in their community. They understand that the prosperity of one business can attract other businesses, which, in turn gives back to the community. Still, the impact of alcohol emanating from an irresponsible business can have devastating consequences. Without restrictive licenses from the Washington State Liquor Control Board, how can

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued next page 3...

these consequences be mitigated? In the case of La Louisiana this was easy. Upon learning of the liquor application, the east precinct liaison attorney contacted local community groups and organizations and inquired about their concerns. An overwhelming number responded in support of the La Louisiana's liquor application but only with restrictions on the sale of alcohol. Two local schools were also contacted: Elaine Packard, Nova School principal, and Jeanne Suleiman, administrator of the nearby Islamic School. Both expressed concern regarding the nearby sale of alcohol but recognized the economic benefits to the community of a restaurant offering full beverage service. As a result, La Louisiana represented a perfect opportunity to customize a Community Good Neighbor Agreement. After gathering input and as many opinions as possible, a draft agreement was circulated.

Once a consensus was obtained, a final draft was prepared and the applicant, Tareke Assefaw, was contacted. After reviewing the agreement, he expressed relief in knowing the community was supportive, and he signed without hesitation. The agreement provides for, among other things, restrictions on the sale of alcohol, service hours, lounge hours, security and participation in the community's Cherry Street Association.

An overwhelmingly positive response followed the news of

Mr. Assefaw's signing the agreement. One area resident, Jon Hughes, summed it up nicely: "This is an example of how the community, school, city, and business can work together to do great things."

WEST PRECINCT Pike Pine Task Force By Tamera Soukup

Representatives from the Pike Pine Task Force recently met with Seattle's Deputy Mayor Tim Cies to discuss public safety issues in the Pike-Pine corridor. The corridor serves as the primary link between the major hotels, downtown shopping, the waterfront and the city's top tourist attraction, the Pike Place Market.

Over the years the area between First and Third Avenues and Pike and Pine Streets has suffered significant negative impacts due to criminal activity and related behavior. Some of the most alarming of which occurs on a regular basis and includes drug dealing and usage, public inebriation, pedestrian interference, aggressive panhandling, loitering and public urination. All these activities are very intimidating to people who work, live and visit downtown Seattle.

The task force, comprised of representatives of stakeholder groups, the Downtown Seattle Association and city agencies prepared a presentation that articulated how the problems in the corridor financially impact the

city as a whole: criminal activities directly impact the businesses and tourist trade which in turn reduces the tax dollars supporting the city budget. Business impacts include decreased property values, reduction in commercial lease tenants and increased security costs in providing for the safety of employees and customers.

Tourist destinations that are impacted by corridor activity include the Pike Place Market, waterfront, Trade & Convention Center, shopping district and entertainment venues such as Benaroya Hall and Seattle Art Museum.

In 2003, cruise ships delivered thousands of visitors to downtown Seattle, and many experienced fear and intimidation while exploring the Pike-Pine "gauntlet." During the meeting with Tim Cies, task force members requested support to address the problems of the corridor. Requests included a significant increase in the number of hours of police staffing in the area and a dedicated emphasis on cleaning, repairs and maintenance to improve aesthetics while discouraging undesirable behavior.

In order to alleviate some of the drug activity the task force requested that the Mayor's office re-implement the SODA program which allows judges to prohibit felons from entering certain areas of the city as a condition of release or sentencing. Other measures included a request to establish a community court model of restorative justice in which

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued on page 4...

Continued from page 3

misdeemeanor defendants are sentenced to community service work where they committed their offenses, strengthening the civility ordinances, relocating the needle exchange, establishing a dumpster-free alley program, and supporting the expansion of the Alcohol Impact Area (AIA) program throughout the corridor.

Ceis acknowledged the problems in the corridor and pledged to work with community members on finding solutions. While budget constraints make it difficult to secure funding for the West Precinct for additional police staffing, the West Precinct's Mike Stanford is working within these constraints to provide additional emphasis patrol. City agencies are now making concerted efforts to provide regular and consistent cleaning, repair and maintenance in the corridor.

The Metropolitan Improvement District (MID), funded by downtown businesses, also committed to spending an additional \$80,000 to \$100,000 to hire off duty police officers to patrol the area, and increase its budget for cleaning to about \$100,000. The MID is also exploring how a dumpster free alley program could be initiated.

The City Attorney's office is researching the feasibility of creating a community court for misdemeanor defendants, and precinct liaison attorney Tamera Soukup is working with King County Superior Court to

re-implement the SODA program. The city's Department of Neighborhoods is also exploring expansion of AIA boundaries to include the corridor.

Phase II

As a result of pressure from the Chinatown Business Improvement Association (BIA) and Community Action Partnership (CAP), the owners of Phase II Hobby and Entertainment withdrew their liquor application to sell alcohol from their establishment. Phase II, located at 654 Jackson Street, sells mainly gift and entertainment items. Community members objected to the proposed sale of alcohol because of the problems associated with chronic public inebriation in that neighborhood.

BIA and CAP representatives pointed out that six off-premise alcohol establishments already existed within the business' four block radius. Existing competition between these markets leads to lower alcohol prices and this results in attracting chronic public inebriates to the neighborhood. Adding one more alcohol establishment to the mix would only exacerbate the problem

Site 17

New owners of Belltown's Site 17 Grocery recently entered into a Good Neighbor Agreement with the city that prohibits the sale of high alcohol content beers, fortified wines and single container beers. In addition to the agreement, Harbor Properties, Site 17 landlord,

included provisions in the assignment of the lease which prohibit similar alcohol sales. These provisions are aimed at decreasing the problem behaviors associated with chronic public inebriates. The conditions are nearly the same as those imposed in the Pioneer Square Alcohol Impact Area.

CHANGES

While an important part of the job of the attorneys in the City Attorney's Office criminal division is to prosecute criminals, their ultimate responsibility is to protect and improve the quality of life in Seattle's communities. Moreover, much of their ongoing work—and that of the advocates and staff—goes toward assisting the victims of crime. This critical work is not acknowledged in the name "criminal division."

To better reflect the work of the office's prosecutors, advocates and staff, the criminal division, as part of its move to Key Tower, has been renamed the Public & Community Safety Division. This change emphasizes the job of not only prosecuting individual defendants, but work on a broader scale to address how crime impacts our neighbors, and work to improve the quality of life for Seattle's citizens.

The change in name to Public & Community Safety Division presages the

Continued next column

Continued next column

Continued on page 7

The Spot

By: Megan Sheppard

0000000000 0000

0000000000 0000 000 0000

00000000 000000, 000000000

5, 2003

Working seamlessly together, city officials padlocked an illegal after-hours club in South Park ... after fire inspectors found 115 people jammed into a facility that has a legal limit of just 29 people at a time — and that was before its “official” open slated for [the previous] weekend. “This is an good example of things coming together,” said the Southwest Police Precinct commander, Capt. James Pryor.

00000 000 000000000 000
00000000 0 00000000 0000000
00 00000000000 00
0000000000 00 000
00000000000000 000000 000
0000000000 0000 000 000000
000000000000 0000 0 000000
0000, 000000 000000000 000
0000000 000000000 0000
000000000000000000 00 000
00000000 0000 00000000000,
000 00000000000 00
00000000000000 0000 000,
000 0000 000000000'0
000000, 000 000 0000000
0000000 00000 00
000000000 00 000000000 00
000000 0000 000
0000000000, 000000 00 “000
0000,” 000000 000 0000,
0000 0000000 0000 0000
00000000 000000000 000000.

000 000000 00 000
000000000 000 0000000 00
000000 000 0 0000000 00
00000000000 00000000, 000
000 000000000 00 000
000000 000000 00 0000
00000000000 0000 0000
000000 00000000 000 0000

00000000000 00 000000 0000000000
00 0000 0000 000000000000.
0000000000 000 0000 0000000000
000000000000 0000 00000000 00
0000 000 0000000 0000000, 000
0000 000000 000 0000000,
00000000 0000000000 0000000000,
00 00000000 000000 00000000000
00000000 0000 00000000 000000
000 000000000, 000000, 0000000000
0000000000, 000 00000000000000
000000 000 000000000.

00000000000 0000000000 0000 00
000000 00 0000, 0000 00000000
000000 0000000 00 000
00000000000 0000000 0000 000
000000 0000, 000000000 0 0000000
00 000000 000000 000000,
000000000 000000000, 000 0000000
00000 0000000000 00 000 00000
000000000000000 000 00000 00
8615 14⁰⁰ 000. 0. – 0000 00
00 0000000000000 000000 5 0.0.
0000 00000000000 0000 000000
00000000000 0000000 000 00
000000 000000.

000000000 000000 00000 00 000
000000000 000000000 000000000000
0000 000000000 00 000 000000
0000 000000000000 000000000000.
00 0000000, 000 00 000
0000000000 0000000000 0000
00000000000 00 000000000000 000
00 0000 00000 0000 000
0000000000.

000000000 00000 000000000
000000000 00000 000 00000000000
00000000000, 000000 0000000
00000000000 00000000000 00
000000 0000000 000 000000000, 00
000000 00000 000000 00000 0000
00000000 00 00000000000 000000
00000000000 000000. 000000 000
0000, 000 000000, 000000000000
00000000000 000000 0000000 0000,
000000 000 000000000
000000000000000 00 0 00000000000,
0000 29 000000000. 00 000000000
00 000 000000 0000⁵, 0 0000
0000 00 000 00000 000 000

000 0000000000 000000
000000000 000000 00 0000000
000 000000 0000000000, 000000
0000000000 0000 000
0000000000 000 000000000
00000000000 000000 000000
0000 00 0000000 0000 0000
000000000000000 0000000000
000 0000000
000000000000000000. 000000000,
00 0000000000 00 000 00 00
0 000000000 000000–000000
0000, 00000000000 0000 2
0.0. 00 5 0.0. 00 000000.

000000000000 000 000000000,
000 0000000000 000000
00000000000 0000000000, 000000
00 000000000 000000000 00
0000000 000000000; 00000 00
000000000 0000000000000 0000
000000000 00000 “00
00000000.” 00 000 000,
0000 000000 00 000000000
000000 00 0000000000000, 00
000000 000000000 0000 0000000
000000000000 0000 00 “00000'0
0000 000 00000000000 00
0000.”

“Voluntary compliance is the goal,” said [Precinct Liaison] Attorney Tuere Sala. All parties in the coordinated effort expressed a willingness and a desire to work with business owners to meet all ordinances. “But this guy wasn’t dealing in good faith,” said Pryor.

Despite Fire Department warnings, the owner opened the club on October 17th — before an inspection. Police alerted the fire department, which told the owner he could have 15 people in the building for construction purposes, and that an inspection would be scheduled for the 24th. On that day, the owner was still not in compliance, the location

was still considered a warehouse, and it was still limited to 29 occupants.

Officials took action early on Oct. 25, after surveillance teams counted more than 75 people enter the building. At 3 a.m., Seattle firefighters and police officers entered the warehouse and arrested the business owner for failure to comply with a fire chief's order and for engaging in a business without a license. The owner's business partner was arrested for obstruction after refusing five commands by police personnel. Dean said 115 patrons were ejected.

Sala said there is a need to protect the public. "Often people don't know that they're not in a safe place. They're just going (in order) to have a good time."

Pryor said, "Our goal is to eliminate any hazard to public safety. Anything else is secondary."

When asked if "The Spot" could reopen anytime soon, the officials responded it could, as soon as the owner complies with all of the necessary regulations. But Pryor noted the owner's lease is set to expire in a month.

Megan Sheppard can be reached at wseditor@robinsonnews.com

Advanced Community Prosecution Conference Brings Problem-Solving Experts Together *By Bob Hood*

Representatives of community prosecution programs from around the country gathered in Atlanta, Georgia for an Advanced Community Prosecution Workshop from September 28th to 30th. The conference sponsored by the American Prosecutor's Research Institute, included representatives from twenty-seven states, forty-five county prosecutor's offices, and nine city attorney's offices. Nearly all of the representatives came from offices that had operated community prosecution programs for a significant number of years.

The conference primarily consisted of problem-solving workshops aimed at dealing with such problems as: aberrant street behavior; gun crimes; street level drugs and prostitution; nuisance properties; gang intervention; graffiti abatement; and problem bars and liquor stores.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for community prosecutors to network and share effective strategies to make localities safer and more livable places. More often than not, we found that we face common problems that can benefit from sharing strategies and learning. As a

direct result, several community prosecution programs from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia agreed to hold a northwest regional conference early next year in Portland, Oregon.

For more information on community prosecution visit our website at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/law/> or at APRI's website at: http://www.ndaa.org/apri/programs/community_pros/cp_home.html

Dear Neighbor,

Block Watch is a free program sponsored by the Seattle Police Department. Block Watch is designed to encourage residents to work together to address crime related neighborhood problems. Block Watch means that you get to know the people who live around you, report suspicious activity to the police and work cooperatively with your community to address crime problems. Crime is lower in areas where neighbors get involved.

We can help you by:

- Providing information on how to better secure your home and other crime prevention information.
- Providing information on how to mark your valuables and provide you with Operation ID stickers. As a direct result, several community prosecution programs from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia agreed to hold a northwest regional conference early next year in Portland, Oregon.

If you are interested in participating in your neighborhood Block Watch group or starting one in your neighborhood, please contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at your police precinct.

Continued next column

CHANGES

expansion of its revised mission designed to combine traditional prosecutorial responsibilities with its new role in improving the quality of life in Seattle's communities:

- Encourage respect for the rule of law by holding offenders accountable through fair and effective enforcement of city and state criminal laws.
- Advocate on behalf of crime victims to ensure that their rights to personal safety, restitution, and participation in the criminal justice process are preserved.
- Prevent crime and improve the quality of life in Seattle's neighborhoods by engaging in proactive problem solving partnerships with residents, the police and other agencies to solve community problems.
- Educate and advise city clients and the public on criminal justice matters and participate in policy development for, and management of, the criminal justice system.

This effort is about much more than just a new name and an expanded mission. Management of the Precinct Liaison Program has moved from the Civil Division to the Public & Community Safety Division (effective January 1, 2004).

The Precinct Liaison program is a model for listening to the community's problems and using creative solutions to improve the quality of life and safety of Seattle's residents and visitors.

Moving the Precinct Liaison Program to the Public & Community Safety Division provides for a more integrated and comprehensive approach to community safety while building on the ties established by liaison attorneys and ensuring stronger working relationships with neighborhoods.

With this restructure, the Precinct Liaison program will be entirely funded from the City Attorney's budget. Federal monies that funded portions of the program for the past five years have, unfortunately, been cut. But the program is too essential to Seattle's neighborhoods to lose because of federal budget woes.

Thanks to the work of Phil Brennehan and Bob Hood over the past five years, liaison attorneys bring both criminal and civil law solutions to neighborhood problems once deemed intractable.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." -- Vaclav Havel

"Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes." -- Carl Jung

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." -- Albert Schweitzer

The Fourth Liaison

By Tom Carr

In 2005, thanks to a federal grant, we will expand our precinct liaison program from three attorneys to four. This means that for the first time the North and East Precincts will have dedicated liaison attorneys. South and Southwest Precincts will continue to share an attorney for the immediate future, although my goal is ultimately to have an attorney in each precinct.

The precinct liaison attorneys do invaluable work by working on problems to help reduce crime and nuisance in our community. We have found that their productivity increases dramatically when they can devote their efforts to a single precinct. Accordingly, I am thrilled that we will now have dedicated attorneys in three precincts. I am also particularly proud that the federal government has seen fit to provide us with the third grant for our program.

In light of our current budget situation, no expansion would be possible without this outside funding. This grant is for only one year. While I am committed to finding funding for this position, I cannot guarantee that such funding will be available for 2006. Precinct Liaison program will be entirely funded from the City Attorney's budget. Federal monies that funded portions of the program for five years have, unfortunately, been cut. But the program is too essential to Seattle's neighborhoods to lose because of federal budget woes.

The Seattle City Attorney's
Liaison Links

North Liaison Attorney

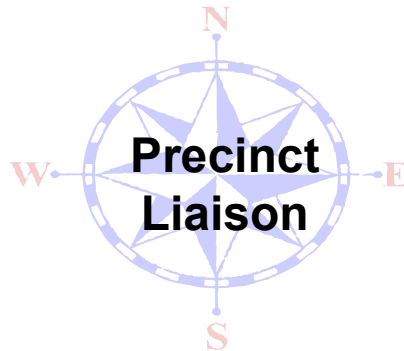
Ed McKenna

206-684-7765

West Liaison Attorney

Tamera Soukup

206-386-4084



East Liaison Attorney

Dan Okada

206-684-4375

South/Southwest Liaison Attorney

Tuere Sala

206-233-2020

Thomas Carr, 206-684-8288

Seattle City Attorney

Robert Hood, 206-684-7771

Public & Community Safety Division Chief



THOMAS A. CARR
Seattle City Attorney
600 - 4th Avenue, 4th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

First class
stamp